



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE SB 323 (Lara)

Dear Senator Lara,

I am writing to express my opposition to your Senate Bill 323.

SB 323, or the "Youth Equality Act," is an attempt to take away certain sales and income tax exemptions from youth organizations whose membership policies are characterized as discriminatory by the language of the bill.

In the name of fighting discrimination, this legislation would actually discriminate against organizations that have faith-based convictions. It is an attack on organizations that have a long and honored tradition of serving youth and developing leadership skills.

Government should not be in the business of dictating the policies and religious convictions of private groups and charities. If the Legislature proceeds down this path, I fear churches, synagogues and other places of worship could be targeted next.

For the reasons stated, as well as my commitment to lower tax burdens, I must oppose SB 323.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District